

James Monroe to Andrew Jackson, May 31, 1819, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

PRESIDENT MONROE TO JACKSON.

Winchester, May 31, 1819.

. . . . I have been extremely distress'd at the difference between you and general Scott, from my great respect and regard for you both, and from its unhappy tendency, considering your rank, and other circumstances, to injure the army and the country. I have never read the correspondence nor any part of it, from a wish that the high opinion which I had for you both, founded on such meritorious services, should not be affected, in regard to either, in the least degree, by an incident of this kind. I always hoped that it might be settled on conditions honorable to you both, and, that is, the object of this letter. I should have spoken to you on the subject, when at Washington, had I not supposed, from what I heard, that it would be carried no further, and been likewise then pressd, as you also were, by another concern, which required my constant attention.

I annex at the foot of this letter the manner, in which I think, it will be honorable for you both to accomodate this difference. You will find that I contemplate no concession on either side; that I propose, only, that you forget the past, and be friends. Those who have fought heroically for their country, and to which every one bears testimony, will never dishonor themselves by such an accomodation. On the contrary they must gain credit by it. You stand on such ground in this affair, that the proposed adjustment, can be imputed to magnanimity only, if acceded to on your part. To accede to it, in the first instance, must be imputed to the same motive, since after declining a certain issue, as I understand to be the case, he can make no advance, and to ask it, would, I think, not accord, with

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your sentiments in such a case. If I am authorised to settle the affair in this manner, I will immediately communicate it to him; of his sanction, there can be no small doubt.

The adjustment in this mode will I am convinced, afford general, and great satisfaction, to the country, who take deep interest in preserving the fame of both. It will also be useful to the army, which we both wish to maintain and preserve. I need not add how much gratified I shall be, from personal as well as public considerations, at such a result.

with great respect and esteem I am dear sir very sincerely yours

Informal note for the *Intelligencer* .

We have heard with great pleasure, that the dispute between Generals Jackson and Scott, has been amicably settled, by the interposition of the President, on conditions honorable to both parties. No concession has been made by either. Forgetting the past, and each respecting the gallant conduct, and honorable qualities of the other, they have resolv'd to be friends. Should this account be true, as we believe it to be, we are satisfied, that the whole country will be much gratified by the result, as well as by the manner in which it was produced.

P S. I have just heard with much regret of your indisposition. I hope to find you perfectly recovered.